

10/594610Amended Claims IPER

1. An ink fountain for a printing machine, having a base with a blade holder (1; 20), in which said blade holder comprises a number of adjacent sectors (2; 22) which can be moved by adjusting means (13) in order to vary the distance between said sectors and the circumference of an ink fountain roller, said ink fountain additionally comprising a blade (11; 21) which is interposed between said sectors (2; 22) and the circumference of the ink fountain roller and which has a continuous edge intended to maintain a defined ink thickness on the ink fountain roller, the ink thickness being adjusted by said continuous edge of the blade (11; 21) and defined by the position of said sectors, which is transmitted to said blade, characterized in that said blade (11; 21) rests directly on said sectors (2; 22) and is held fixedly with respect to said blade holder (1; 20).

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2. The ink fountain as claimed in claim 1, in which the blade (11; 21) comprises a ceramic deposit to reinforce said edge of the blade.

25 3. The ink fountain as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that the blade (11; 21) is a metal blade.

30 4. The ink fountain as claimed in claim 1, 2 or 3, in which the blade (11; 21) is screwed into the blade holder (1; 20).

35 5. The ink fountain as claimed in claim 1, 2 or 3, in which the blade is held on the blade holder by a fastening piece (26).

6. The ink fountain as claimed in one of the preceding claims, in which the sectors (2) are moved by

deformation.

7. The ink fountain as claimed in one of claims 1 to 5, in which the sectors (22) are moved by rotation.

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8. The ink fountain as claimed in one of the preceding claims, in which a deformable plastic is deposited between the sectors (2; 22) to improve the sealing between them.

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